

Our state prisons are badly overcrowded. Since the Legislature has been unable to solve the problem, we, the people, must do it with Proposition 5.

Prisons cost us \$10 billion every year, but California spends little on rehabilitation. That's short-sighted. Young people with drug problems can't get treatment. Too many nonviolent adults with addictions crowd our prisons. Tens of thousands cycle in and out, untreated.

Proposition 5, the Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act, is a smart way to solve these problems by treating violent and nonviolent offenders differently. Prop. 5 reduces prison overcrowding safely, pays for itself annually, and over time saves California \$2.5 billion.

Here's what it does:

FIRST, Prop. 5 gives nonviolent youth with drug problems access to drug treatment.

SECOND, it reduces the number of nonviolent drug offenders going into prison by providing drug treatment programs with real accountability.

THIRD, it requires the prison system to provide rehabilitation to prisoners and parolees.

For at-risk youth, California now offers no drug treatment. Families have nowhere to turn.

Prop. 5 creates treatment options for young people with drug problems. They can be referred to treatment by family, school counselors or physicians. Those caught with a small

**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 5

amount of marijuana will get early intervention programs. In this way, we can steer youth away from addiction and crime.

For nonviolent drug offenders, treatment works. Voter-approved Proposition 36 (2000) provided treatment, not jail, for nonviolent drug users. One-third completed treatment and became productive, tax-paying citizens. Since 2000, Prop. 36 has graduated 84,000 people and saved almost \$2 billion.

Prop. 5 builds upon Prop. 36 and improves it. Prop. 5 offers greater accountability and better treatment for nonviolent offenders. People must pay a share of treatment costs. Judges can jail offenders who don't comply with treatment, and give longer sentences to those who repeatedly break the rules.

For state prisons, Prop. 5 requires all offenders to serve their time and make restitution. After release, they'll get help to re-integrate into society. Some will need education or job training, others drug treatment. Prop. 5 gives former inmates the chance to turn their lives around.

Prop. 5 holds nonviolent parolees accountable for minor parole violations with community sanctions, drug treatment, or jail time. For serious offenses they'll be returned to state prison. Parolees with a history of violence, gang crimes or sex offenses can be returned to prison for any parole violation.

Treating violent and nonviolent offenders differently is the smart fix for overcrowded prisons. Prop. 5 saves \$2.5 billion within a few years, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst.

Prop. 5 makes sure that there will always be room for violent criminals in prison. It also toughens parole requirements for violent criminals.

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YES on Prop. 5 is a smart, safe way to:

- Prevent crime with drug treatment for youth;
- Provide rehab, not prison, for nonviolent drug offenders;
- Reduce prison overcrowding;
- Keep violent offenders in prison; and
- Free up billions for schools, healthcare and highways.

SIGNED:

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